



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
2011**

**Grade 3  
Reading**

# Reading

❶ Which word means the **same** as under?

- ☐ A. upon
- ☐ B. around
- ☐ C. below
- ☐ D. better

❷ Which word means the **opposite** of cool?

- ☐ A. ice
- ☐ B. fun
- ☐ C. care
- ☐ D. warm

*Read this story about what happens when a strange cat, followed by a strange dog, shows up at Mr. Hacker's door. Then answer the questions that follow.*

**from *Mr. Hacker***  
*by James Stevenson*



One morning Mr. Hacker looked out the window of his living room. A big yellow cat was crouching on the porch. When the cat saw Mr. Hacker, it ran away. The next morning the same cat was on the porch again. Mr. Hacker crept into the kitchen and put some milk in a dish. Then he crept back and slowly opened the door to the porch. The cat dashed off. Mr. Hacker put the dish of milk on the porch. In the afternoon the dish was empty. Mr. Hacker filled the dish again. By evening the milk was gone again.

The next day Mr. Hacker went to the store and bought some cat food. He put a bowl of cat food and a bowl of milk on his porch. Then he went inside and waited by the window.

A large, brown, dirty-looking dog walked up onto the porch. It looked around. Then it ate the cat food, drank the milk, and strolled away

down the road. "My goodness," said Mr. Hacker.

Then the yellow cat arrived. The cat looked at the empty bowls and started to leave. "Wait," called Mr. Hacker, opening the door, "I'll get some more." The cat ran away.

The next morning Mr. Hacker made another trip to the store. He bought a bag of dog food and a box of dog bones. At one side of the porch, he put a bowl of dog food and a dog bone and a bowl of water. At the other side of the porch, he put a bowl of cat food and a bowl of milk.

When he looked out the window, he saw the yellow cat creeping onto the porch. The cat sniffed at the dog food, then walked over to the cat food and began to eat. "Now I've done it right," said Mr. Hacker. Just then the cat stopped eating, looked around, and dashed off.

The dirty-looking dog appeared, ate the dog food, the dog bone, the cat food, drank the milk and some of the water, too. Mr. Hacker went out onto the porch. "You shouldn't have done that," said Mr. Hacker. The dog looked at him and wagged its tail.

Mr. Hacker collected all the bowls and went inside. The dog scratched at the door. "Go home," said Mr. Hacker. But he was pretty sure the dog didn't have a home. It didn't even have a collar. "Go someplace," said Mr. Hacker. After a while the dog wandered away.

Then the yellow cat came back. But there were no bowls on the porch. “Wait,” called Mr. Hacker. The cat ran off.

For the next few days, Mr. Hacker was very busy trying to get the right food to the right animal at the right time. Sometimes it worked, but mostly it didn’t. The dirty-looking dog seemed to be getting fatter, and the yellow cat skinnier. One evening as the dog arrived, Mr. Hacker had an idea. He picked up the dog bowl and the dog bone, and carried them into the house. The dog came right after him, wagging its tail. Mr. Hacker put the food on the kitchen floor. The dog ate it up.

Mr. Hacker held the front door open. “Out you go,” he said. The dog looked at the open door. Then it jumped up onto the sofa and lay down.

“You can’t stay here,” said Mr. Hacker. The dog closed its eyes. “You can’t,” said Mr. Hacker. The dog wagged its tail, and soon it was asleep.

Mr. Hacker sat watching the dog. When it woke up, Mr. Hacker went to the door and opened it. “Out you go,” he said again. The dog jumped off the sofa and went right out. Mr. Hacker closed the door. “Perfect,” he said, and he went to bed. Just as he was turning out the light, he heard scratching at the door.

\* \* \* \*

Two months later, Mr. Hacker was putting cat food out on the front porch for Ellie, the yellow cat—who came by twice a day now and wasn’t afraid of anything—when snow began to fall. “Look at that, Jarvis,” he said to the dog, who lived in the house now, and was much cleaner, and slept on the sofa at night. “Maybe I should put out some food for the birds.”

3 Mr. Hacker **first** sees the yellow cat

- ☐ A. when it runs into the house.
- ☐ B. when the dog chases it away.
- ☐ C. near the store.
- ☐ D. from his window.

4 Which word has the same **vowel sound** as bowl?

- ☐ A. box
- ☐ B. tone
- ☐ C. pool
- ☐ D. now

5 Read this sentence from the story.

Then it ate the cat food, drank the milk, and strolled away down the road.

What does the word strolled mean?

- ☐ A. stretched
- ☐ B. barked
- ☐ C. walked
- ☐ D. tossed

6 When Mr. Hacker puts food on each side of the porch, he is trying to

- ☐ A. scare the dog away.
- ☐ B. make sure the cat gets fed.
- ☐ C. catch both animals.
- ☐ D. teach the animals to be friends.

7 Fill in the chart.

Choose four words from the Word Box that have the same vowel sound as <u>dish</u> :
1.
2.
3.
4.

Word Box
big
gain
his
I'll
milk
right
side
trip

8 After Mr. Hacker says, “You shouldn’t have done that,” the dog

- ☐ A. barks at Mr. Hacker.
- ☐ B. eats the cat food.
- ☐ C. wags its tail.
- ☐ D. runs away.

9 How does Mr. Hacker finally solve the cat’s problem?

- ☐ A. He puts the cat food on the porch.
- ☐ B. He brings the dog into the house.
- ☐ C. He puts the cat food in the kitchen.
- ☐ D. He makes the dog sleep on the sofa.

10 At the end of the story, what will Mr. Hacker **most likely** do next?

- ☐ A. buy bird food
- ☐ B. buy dog bones
- ☐ C. feed the cat
- ☐ D. play with the dog

11 Read the words in the box.

Compound Words
afternoon inside

Which word belongs with the words in the box?

- ☐ A. afraid
- ☐ B. creeping
- ☐ C. goodness
- ☐ D. someplace

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How is the problem solved? Use details from the story.

[illegible]



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